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Wanted: More Home Economists

Josephine Ahern
Iowa State College

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Wanted:

More Home Economists

Never has there been a greater need for women trained in home economics, says Josephine Ahern

Mrs. Mary Elva Sather, assistant to the dean, in charge of home economics placement, confers with one of 466 Iowa State women placed last year. The Placement Office and heads of departments through the years establish many contacts with employers so that each year repeated calls for graduates come in from the same sources. Thousands of students have been placed. Outgoing correspondence has increased proportionately to the incoming mail. Several hundred letters are written each month. When credentials are sent to a prospective employer, a letter, based on the reports in the office file, is written about each applicant.

THE mounting requests for home economics graduates indicate the new and increasing opportunities for young women in this expanding field. Requests received by the Home Economics Placement Office have increased nearly 300 percent in the past two years, according to Dean Genevieve Fisher of the Home Economics Division. More than 2000 calls for home economists were received by the division this year, when 360 seniors were being graduated, many of whom were married immediately. Requests have been for specialized workers in the fields of commercial art and textiles, experimental cookery and nutrition, extension service, food service, household equipment and home service, hospital dietetics, laboratory technology, nursery schools, teaching, technical journalism and summer work.

The greatest increase in demand at present is for nursery school teachers. Because of the growing realization of the importance of supervised child development and the wartime need for industrial nursery schools, calls have increased twenty times in the last two years.

The need for more household equipment majors and home service directors is apparent in this year's requests. Large manufacturers of household equipment are calling for women to design post war equipment. National women's magazines want graduates to work in their testing kitchens and public utility companies need trained graduates to direct their home

service departments which are being organized for the post war era.

A greater opportunity has been created in the field of experimental cookery due to the armed forces' increased use of dehydrated meats and vegetables and dried eggs.

Industrial cafeterias as well as restaurants, hotels and tea rooms have been demanding increasing numbers of women trained in quantity food preparation.

In the last two years, requests for food service workers have more than doubled, for dietitians and experimental foods multiplied five times, and for public relations women multiplied seven times.

Requests for 358 home economics teachers were received by the Teacher Placement Service last year and only 136 of these could be filled. Last year's graduates in home economics education are teaching in 12 states from California to Connecticut.

Laboratory technicians are needed to fill 52 positions which are creating a new field for Iowa State graduates. There were no requests for this type of work two years ago.

Whatever a student learns in preparation for a home economics position will also make her valuable in other lines of home economics work, including homemaking. Home economics training is based on the fact that a high percentage of graduates do marry and establish homes of their own a few years after graduation.

A thorough training in home economics is an excellent beginning for a successful life in both the business world and the home.

Dr. Raymond M. Hughes, president emeritus of Iowa State College says: "The real test of the value of college training is the graduate's ability to live wisely and serve the world usefully in her professional field. The college is much concerned to see that graduates meet with maximum success in life.

"This institution is constantly seeking to test the skill of its teachers, the suitability of its courses and the value of its training by checking the ease or difficulty with which it places its graduates in appropriate positions and the success these graduates achieve."